Allahabad High Courts have been made by the Government preliminary to their transfer to outside High Courts.

(c) Does not arise.

Vacancies of High Court Judges in Karnataka

687. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister Law and JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies of High Court Judges are still kept unfilled in Karnataka; and

(b) what are the reasons for not filling those vacancies in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) There are 3 vacancies in the Karnataka High Court against the sanctioned strength of 24 Judges. It has been decided in principle to creates 6 new posts of Judges/Additional Judges. The vacancy of Chief Justice would be filled in shortly. The matter of appointment other Judges is engaging the due attention of the Government of India.

Industries in Pondicherry

688. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many large scale industries have been earmarked in the Seventh Five Yer Plan for the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) for how many industries in the large scale sector 'Letter of Intent' has already been issued by the Central Government; and

(c) how many industries have started production so for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) An outlay of Rs. 309 lakhs has been aproved for large and medium industries in the Union Territory of Pondicherry during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, a total of 29 letters of intent were issued during the years 1984 to 1986 (upto June) for setting up of industries in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. 5 of these letters of intent have already been converted into industrial licences and 1 letter of intent has since been treated as lapsed.

A letter of intent is isssued with an initial validity period of one year and further extensions can also be granted on adequate justification. After the entrepreneur fulfils the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. The initial validity period of an industrial ilcence is two years within which the entrepreneur concerned is required to start commercial production. The validity period of an industrial licence can, however, be extended even beyond 2 years on justifiable grounds. It, therefore, takes about 3 to 4 years for an industrial project to fructify. Actual gescation period, however varies from project to project.

Missing of Confidential ONGC Papers.

689. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain confidential ONGC papers pertaining to the drilling and other important operations in the country were recently found mising under mysterious circumstances; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government to locate the papers

and also to identify the officials responsible for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Some charts and diagrams related to drilled and abandoned wells in Southern basins were reported stolen from the premises of a Reprographic firm of New Delhi, to whom these were given by the ONGC for reproduction. The papers were not of classified nature.

Reports have been lodged with the concerned Polce Station for investigation.

Shortfall in the Plan Expenditure

690. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any shortfall in the Plan expenditure, driling metreage and crude production by the Oil India Limited during 1985-86;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to step up the utilisation of allocated funds, drilling and crude production according to the targets laid down in the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for shortfalls were as under:

Plan expenditure. Slippage in procurement of certain equipment and facilities, substantial discounts in some drilling contract; deferement of some projects.

Drilling metreage: Delay in clearance of project, delays in delivery and commissioning or rigs.

Productions: Reservoir and production problems in Jorajan; reduced development drilling; delay in receipt of pumps and compressors.

(c) Some of the steps are:

(i) Streamlining of equipment procurement procedures.

(ii) Retaining an internationally reputed agency for the reservior and production problems at Jorajan.

(iii) Efforts for expediting investment approvals.

Fall in International Prices of Crude Oil

691. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the fall in the international prices of crude oil during the last one year especially after April, 1986;

(b) whether India will be benefited financially by the falling prices of crude oil and if so, the extent of the estimated savings in foreign exchange thereby; and

(c) whether this would affect our own production of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The international prices of crude oil has fallen sharply from December, 1985 onwards. The fall in the prices of crude have been form $26.00/bbl — $28.00|bbl in December, 1985 to $10.00|bbl to $12.00/bbl. in April, 1986 and $8.00/bbl $10,000/bbl as of now, depending upon the type of crude.